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VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 22nd MEETING

Chairman:	Mr. ELARABY	(Egypt)
later:	Mr. PATOKALLIO (Vice-Chairman)	(Finland)

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DISTR. GENERAL
A/C.1/47/PV.22
27 November 1992

ENGLISH

The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 49 to 65, 68 and 142; and 67 and 69 (continued)

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS UNDER ALL DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ITEMS

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now proceed to the second phase of its work. As members are well aware, this and the other meetings scheduled for the period 29 October to 11 November have been set aside for the introduction of and comments on draft resolutions.

Mr. KRASULIN (Russian Federation): By resolution 45/58 O of 4 December 1990 the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, with the assistance of qualified governmental experts and taking into account the views of Member States and other relevant information, to undertake a study of defensive-security concepts and policies to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

It gives me great pleasure, in my capacity as chairman of the group of governmental experts established to undertake a study of defensive security concepts and policies, to address the Committee this morning and to introduce the results of our work, which are reported in document A/47/394.

The study was unanimously approved by the group of experts, which consisted, in addition to myself, of experts from Argentina, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Netherlands, Nigeria and Poland. I wish to take this opportunity to express my deepest appreciation to all my colleagues in the group, not only for the invaluable contribution that they made to the successful conclusion of our work but also for the support that they extended to me personally.

(Mr. Krasulin, Russian Federation)

With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I should like to refer to some of the main features of the study. But, first, I wish to recall two particular paragraphs of General Assembly resolution 45/58 O, which called for the study. In my view, those two paragraphs best describe how the present study may contribute to a better understanding of the various defensive-security concepts and policies that have emerged in the past few years and of the way in which these concepts and policies may, in turn, contribute to the strengthening of international peace and security.

(Mr. Krasulin, Russian Federation)

In paragraph 1 of the resolution, the General Assembly considered:

"... the development of an international dialogue on defensive security concepts and policies to be of great importance for promoting the process of achieving disarmament and strengthening international security". (resolution 45/58 O, para.1)

In paragraph 2, the General Assembly invited:

"... Member States to initiate or intensify the dialogue on defensive security concepts and policies at the bilateral level, particularly at the regional level and, where appropriate, at the multilateral level". (resolution 45/58 O, para.2)

Indeed, the Group of Experts understood its task as one of exploring ideas, concepts and situations with a view to increasing the interest of the international community in an approach to security that deserved special consideration because of its emphasis on a defensive rather than an offensive approach, and on military, as well as political, elements.

The various models, concepts, ideas and theorems that emerged in the 1980s and that stress the importance of emphasizing defence are summarized in the report with a view to determining their value to the study as a whole. The main assumptions, arguments and conclusions of the proponents of such proposals as "non-offensive defence", "non-provocative defence", "defensive defence", "reasonable sufficiency" and so on are presented.

Because all of those models emphasize military considerations, the conclusion reached by the Group of Experts is that "defensive security", as defined in the study, goes beyond all these notions. It encompasses both political and military elements aimed at ensuring that all States conduct

(Mr. Krasulin, Russian Federation)

their policies in conformity with the Charter and adopt a military posture and a level of forces that, while ensuring an effective defence, pose no threat to other States.

As a working tool, "defensive security" is defined in the study as:

"... a condition of peace and security attained step-by-step and sustained through effective and concrete measures in the political and military fields under which:

(a) Friendly relations among States are established and maintained;

(b) Disputes are settled in a peaceful and equitable manner and the resort to force is consequently excluded;

(c) The capacity for launching a surprise attack and for initiating large-scale offensive action is eliminated through verifiable arms control and disarmament, confidence- and security-building measures and a restructuring of armed forces towards a defensive orientation."

(A/47/394, para.12)

The study discusses the question how States might best accomplish this purpose and stresses, in particular, that the modalities of defensive security policies will, in practice, depend on the security situation prevailing in each particular region and the perceptions of the States concerned in this regard.

The study begins by exploring recent events and current trends in the international security environment that may have made this environment more conducive to the realization of defensive security.

In chapter II, it surveys recent, positive trends in Europe, including the emergence of cooperation in the wake of the cold war, and it highlights achievements in the area of arms limitation and disarmament. The report further examines the enhanced role that has emerged for regional cooperation

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and the United Nations in various regions and subregions in the world. Finally, the chapter also draws attention to existing and emerging threats to security.

Chapter III discusses the substance and main features of defensive security concepts and policies. It surveys the literature on non-offensive defence that became prominent in Europe during the last decade and examines proposals developed in other parts of the world, particularly those relating to weapons of mass destruction, which are relevant to defensive security. Having surveyed some of those models, concepts and ideas, the report turns next to examining the aims, substance and main features of defensive security. In doing so, it suggests what political and military considerations should be emphasized in defensive security.

In chapter IV, the report turns to some of the problems confronting the implementation of defensive security policies. These focus on the difficulty of distinguishing between offensive and defensive weapons and weapons systems, the requirement to retain the ability to conduct counter-offensives at the tactical and operational level of military operations to ensure an effective defence, and the potential difficulties posed by the joint commitment of States to collective defence. The applicability of defensive security concepts and policies at the bilateral, regional and global levels is also examined.

Strategies and measures for promoting defensive security are examined in chapter V. The measures identified for this purpose include collective security and regional cooperative arrangements consistent with the Charter; confidence- and security-building measures; arms limitation and disarmament agreements, and verification of compliance. In each case, examples are

(Mr. Krasulin, Russian Federation)

provided of ways in which States might be able to promote defensive security at a bilateral level, within specific regions or globally.

Finally, the report concludes by examining a number of measures which States might wish to adopt that might contribute or lead towards the realization of defensive security concepts and policies. In this connection, while the report once again underscores the fact that there are no ready-made, universally applicable formulas for promoting defensive security, it nevertheless identifies certain steps that all States can take towards the implementation of defensive security. Foremost among these is respect for the principles and provisions of collective security embodied in the Charter.

Once again I turn to General Assembly resolution 45/58 O and the importance it attached to the creation of an international dialogue on defensive security concepts and policies, be it at the bilateral, regional or global level. If the present study can effectively contribute to generating an informed dialogue on the subject, we, in the Group of Experts, will be truly gratified that our efforts have not been in vain.

I would like to inform the Committee that the regional sponsors of General Assembly resolution 45/58 O and the participants in the Group of Experts are working on an appropriate draft resolution, which will be circulated shortly. I should like, on behalf of the sponsors of the draft resolution to express the hope that it will be adopted by consensus.

Mr. VASQUEZ (Peru) (interpretation from Spanish): I am pleased to present the draft decision in document A/C.1/47/L.7 under agenda item 61 (m), "Conventional disarmament on a regional scale". Under this text, the Assembly would recall decision 46/412 of 6 December 1991 and would decide to welcome the report of the Secretary-General on the question, to invite Member States that have not yet done so to convey to the Secretary-General their views on this matter, and to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-eighth session the item entitled "Conventional disarmament on a regional scale".

My delegation is awaiting additional reports from Member States in order to have sufficient information to prepare a draft resolution on this subject.

We hope that this draft decision will be adopted by the Committee by consensus.

The CHAIRMAN: Since the deadline for submission of draft resolutions on disarmament agenda items has been extended until Friday, 30 October 1992, at 5 p.m., I request those delegations wishing to submit draft resolutions to transmit them to the Secretary of the Committee by the required deadline.

The meeting rose at 10.55 a.m.